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1983

1983 Correspondence between Clay and Reese on Re-entry Women

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OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE/ 527 ANDY HOLT TOWER/KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37996-0150

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Miss Gail Clay
FROM: Jack E. Reese *JER*
DATE: February 2, 1983
RE: Request for Advice From the Commission For Women

Gail, Barbara Wickersham recently wrote me to say that she has become aware of increased difficulties for re-entry women. She believes that the frustration/discontent level among this group has risen.

I am concerned about this perception, and I would like to ask the Commission For Women for its thinking on the following points. I do not mean that the CFW should launch a major review of policies or procedures, but the diverse representation of the group, it seems to me, can provide a source of excellent counsel.

1. Is there a problem here? It is always difficult to come back to a formal education experience, and there will always be problems of readjusting. Are these problems compounded by UTK? Are they greater than they have been?
2. What should we do? Obviously, there is a limit to what we can do to minimize the "culture shock" for re-entry. Are there, though, ways in which we do not do enough? Is there a role here for the Women's Center and its Women's Coordinating Council? If so, what should the role be?

I would appreciate any assistance or direction the CFW can provide.

tmb

cc: Dr. Luke Ebersole
Miss Betsey Creekmore
Ms. Barbara Wickersham

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Commission for Women

TO: Chancellor Jack Reese

FROM: Gail Clay, Commission for Women [REDACTED]

DATE: February 18, 1983

RE: Ideas for Assisting Re-Entry Students

Members of the Commission for Women were able to address the status of re-entry women at UTK at a recent committee meeting. Several ideas were generated, but the dominant ones were the need for better communication with the group and more effective utilization of existing campus services and the academic resources.

Allow me to present the problems and suggestions as discussed by those CFW members attending the meeting.

1. The Orientation Office should develop a program for this specific group - women and men. This office could and should improve its services to re-entry students.
2. The Re-Admissions Office could be a key to improved communications with students who may have dropped out a few years ago and are now returning. Materials and information related to all aspects of student life could be assimilated by this office for immediate delivery to the returning students.
3. Each re-entry student should be assigned to a strong academic advisor. Regular biweekly appointments could be scheduled through the second quarter after returning to the university.
4. The individual departments should identify returning students and then develop their own support group from within the department.
5. Credit and non-credit courses are available, and the students should be made aware of these by any of the agencies mentioned above. Courses listed below appear to be appropriate:

Educ. 1410 - Efficient Reading and Study Skills

Ed. Psych. 2210 - Academic Development

Ed. Psych. 2220 - Personal Development

Rapid Reading (non-credit)

Refresher courses in Core Subjects (non-credit)

6. Career Planning and Placement and the Student Counseling Center are excellent areas for referral for Career and Personal Development. Printed information from these departments should be in the Orientation Packet.
7. A University Women's Center would be most beneficial to re-entry women, and all women for that matter. The Women's Center as now structured is a programming agency, and it is not charged with the responsibility to serve the role of a coordinating body for women at UTK.

If the role of the Women's Center and the Coordinating Council is redefined and broadened to address the developmental needs of women, it could be a most effective campus agency.

In conclusion, it should be stated that the Commission believes that the ingredients for assisting re-entry/returning students are available now on campus, only the lack of control figure prevents the cake from cooking.

GC/brh

cc: Dr. Luke Ebersole
Miss Betsey Creekmore
Ms. Barbara Wickersham